

The language in this area of the bill provides the Special Master with some discretion, and I hope the Special Master will use this discretion to ensure that the victim compensation is administered fairly. But I regret that the haste in which this legislation was put together made refining the victims compensation provisions impossible.

There is a second important question that Congress didn't address: Should the compensation system in this bill be the model for future victims of terrorist acts or natural disasters? Past victims of terrorist attacks have not received the generous compensation amounts H.R. 2926 envisions. Apart from the obvious fairness question of how best to give victims and their families similar compensation, there are cost considerations that Congress did not evaluate if the model in H.R. 2926 is to be used in future cases.

In short, compensation to the victims of the September 11 tragedies is appropriate and important. H.R. 2926, however, fails to thoughtfully address:

How to allocate compensation among victims killed or injured on September 11;

Whether past victims of terrorist attacks should be similarly compensated;

Whether the compensation system will be a model for future victims;

The estimated aggregate cost of this compensation system;

How federal compensation will be coordinated with other compensation that the victims and their families will receive from charitable funds and other sources.

#### UNKNOWN AND POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT COST RAMIFICATIONS

In addition to the problems described above, the legislation also has another provision that could end up costing the federal taxpayer billions of dollars. The bill allows the Secretary of Transportation to determine that an air carrier is not liable for claims regarding losses suffered by third parties above \$100 million in the aggregate arising from any terrorist acts that occur in the 180-day period following the enactment of the bill. Where the Secretary makes this certification, the government is responsible for liability above that amount. In the event of another airline-related tragedy or tragedies resulting from terrorist acts, this provision potentially could result in the expenditure of many billions of additional government funds.

#### LACK OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW

The many substantive problems with the airline relief bill are the result of a defective process. Although the bill commits federal taxpayers to providing tens of billions of dollars in relief, there was no meaningful opportunity for review of the merits of the legislation by independent experts without a stake in the outcome.

In particular, Congress erred by not adequately involving the General Accounting Office in review of this legislation. Nonpartisan and independent, GAO specializes in evaluating expenditures of federal programs. Yet Congress made no request for a formal GAO analysis before enacting the bill.

#### CONCLUSION

H.R. 2926 reflects a commendable and understandable response to a heart-breaking national tragedy. Unfortunately, the process used to draft the legislation prevented the careful review that is needed to ensure the bill is an effective and fair response to terrorist acts.

By omitting any provision dealing with airline security or compensation for displaced workers, this legislation unwisely focuses just on responding to the immediate needs of the major airlines. That need is unquestionably urgent, but addressing it without resolving other urgent problems is a mistake.

H.R. 2926 received so little scrutiny that it's impossible to assess how much the bill will cost federal taxpayers. At a minimum, this legislation will obligate the federal government to provide \$15 billion in financial assistance, but the actual costs could be far higher. And if this bill becomes a model for other affected industries or future victims of terrorist attacks, the total costs could multiply rapidly.

In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, our nation has learned to put a premium on the value of shared sacrifice.

Shared sacrifice was embodied by the firefighters who charged into the World Trade Center to rescue people they never met and who died in the effort. Shared sacrifice, we're told, is over 100,000 workers losing their jobs in the airline industry, and many being denied promised severance benefits. And shared sacrifice will be exemplified in the commitment of the men and women in our armed services who are being sent into battle.

But under H.R. 2926, we have found there are limits to shared sacrifice. This bill asks for no sacrifices from those who earn millions in the airline industry. To the contrary, it allows airline executives to continue to earn millions of dollars in salary and compensation, while at the same time imposing no new security responsibilities on the airlines and providing no relief to laid-off workers.

That is inexcusable.

Congress and the Bush Administration are going to have to respond to unexpected demands and urgent needs in the coming months. It is essential that our legislative responses be thoughtful, carefully responsive to actual problems, and effective.

Given the haste in which it was considered, H.R. 2926 likely fails these tests. We can do better in future challenges, and we owe it to our nation to do better.

#### IN HONOR OF STANLEY MATHER

#### HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a constituent and friend of mine, Mr. Stanley Mather and to commemorate his life and the service he gave to his community. Stan served our community as a plant pathologist for thirty-one years with the California State Department of Food and Agriculture, where he tirelessly fought to keep California's fruit crops free of viruses. On Sunday, July 22, 2001, Stanley Mather suffered a heart attack and died in his home in Sacramento, California.

Stan first publicly served our nation as a gunnery officer aboard the battleship, USS Nevada, during World War II, where he saw close combat in Europe during the invasion of France in 1944 and the battles for Okinawa and Iwo Jima the following year. During the following three decades, Stan served in a variety of positions, always focusing on fruit virus control programs.

Most notably, it was his work as a member of the Sacramento Rotary Club that first led me in contact with him. Over the last few years, Stan and I have worked closely on many occasions and I consider it a true honor to have had him as a friend. While he is sorely missed, I am reassured knowing that his legacy will live on for generations to come.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MONTROSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the selfless dedication of the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse. This organization in Montrose County consists of over forty members that volunteer their time and services to their community.

The Posse helps the residents of Montrose County in times of need by providing assistance with search and rescue efforts and forest fire control as well as many other relief activities. In the year 2000, they provided over 2,300 hours of not only their time and effort but also their own equipment. They have managed to remain an effective organization because of the dedication of their volunteer members. The Montrose County Sheriff's Posse provides important public service to a community that makes an effort to financially fund the volunteer organization.

Mr. Speaker, the Montrose County Sheriff's Posse provides an essential service to their community. Their commitment to such an important cause is admirable. I would like to thank the Posse for their valuable assistance and wish them continued success and community support in their future efforts.

#### NATURE MAY PROVIDE COMFORT FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

#### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, over the last weeks Members of Congress have stepped outside of party boundaries, joining together and unanimously supporting millions of dollars to aid victims, families, and rescue workers affected by the September 11th attacks. Now, in addition to financial assistance, it is important for us to provide outlets for these victims and their families through the grieving and recovery process.

The legislation I introduce today continues the bipartisan spirit of the Congress, as it is cosponsored by Resources Committee Chairman JAMES HANSEN. The bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to create a program under which the survivors and families of the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, as well as the emergency personnel who responded to that crisis, may visit our national parks, forests, and public lands free of charge.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said Nature is the symbol of the spirit and that Nature turns all

malfeasance to good. While this proposal cannot adequately respond to the loss of those who grieve, perhaps the experience of our Nation's greatest treasures—our parks and forests, our mountains and rivers—will help strengthen America's well-being—physically, mentally and spiritually. That is why I have named this bill the Healing Opportunities in National Parks and the Environment Act, the HOPE Act. It is important that we keep hope alive in the wake of the recent tragic events as we recover and rebuild.

There may come a time when a fireman, or a nurse, or a survivor, who has seen far too much pain and suffering, may decide that a day at the lake with his or her family would provide welcome relief. Let us continue to aid these victims and family members as we already have financially. Let us provide the victims and family members the symbol of the spirit—to aid in their spiritual and mental healing. We can facilitate this by providing lifetime free access to all of our natural wonders.

This legislation will make that possible. This legislation is just a small gesture that might encourage someone who is suffering to seek comfort in the beauty of this great land. Like most Americans we continue to struggle with a response to these events. This is just one step Congress can take to support America's greatest natural resources, our citizens.

#### TRIBUTE TO FREVERT TRUE VALUE HARDWARE

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frevert True Value Hardware for their work and donations in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of businesses like the Frevert True Value Hardware signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, Frevert True Value Hardware has volunteered to paint an American Flag in the yards of local patriots who make a financial contribution to provide for the grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of Frevert True Value Hardware is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and

do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

#### PROBLEM FACING LAWMAKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, SOCIAL, CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

#### HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the critical problems facing lawmakers, law enforcers, and social, civil, and religious leaders in our nation. These problems are being addressed by the International Bible Reading Association, as well as by Senators, Representatives, and civic, religious, and national statesmen who are confident that the Bible contains the answers to our nation's dilemma.

The great American scholar Noah Webster wrote: "All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." Noah Webster stated the facts over 150 years ago; but, because of the increased pace of our society over just the past 50 years, reading the Bible has declined and violence and immorality have accelerated.

The Bible has had a monumental impact upon the development of our Western civilization, whose literature, art, and music are filled with images and inspiration that can be traced to its pages. More importantly, our laws, our sense of justice, our charity, and our moral standards all find their origin in the Bible. Bible reading impresses upon the minds of readers the principles of morality, truth, justice, and respect for the sacredness of human life.

The Bible, which is a fundamental part of our national heritage, has had a more profound affect on the moral fabric of American society than any other document. It was the basis for our Founding Fathers' belief in the inalienable rights of the individual—rights which they found explicit in the Bible. This same sense of individual freedom and justice permeates the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The influence of both the Old and New Testaments has formed the basis of our laws, our national character, and our system of values. It was the biblical view of man—affirming the dignity and worth of the human person made in the image of our Creator—which inspired the principles upon which the United States is founded. Many historians credit George Wash-

ington with identifying the United States as "One Nation Under God"; therefore, today we inscribe In God We Trust on our coins.

Responding to a Joint Resolution of the House and Senate, in a 1990 Proclamation, President George Bush wrote: "I invite all Americans to discover the great inspiration and knowledge that can be obtained through thoughtful reading of the Bible."

The Bible has not only influenced the development of our nation's values and institutions, but has also enriched the daily lives of millions of men and women who have looked to it for comfort, hope, and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, because of the overwhelming acceptance of the Bible in the history of our nation, I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending the International Bible Reading Association for its request to George W. Bush, President of the United States, to proclaim 2002 as the Year for all America to read through the Bible.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, WILLIAM J. IVEY, ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chairman William J. Ivey, on his retirement from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since 1998, Chairman Ivey has dedicated himself and the NEA to preserving the great arts tradition of this nation and to broadening the public's awareness of the tremendous benefits that the arts have to offer.

Under Chairman Ivey's leadership, the NEA and its many programs have exposed countless Americans to the rich rewards of the arts, while benefitting our communities, our children, and our economy.

In 1997, he was honored by Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist for his diligent work as Director of the Country Music Foundation, and was praised by the Tennessee Arts Commission for his efforts in reaching out to the community.

Chairman Ivey's passion for preserving historic recordings of popular and classical music ensure that generations to come will have the opportunity to learn and appreciate the musical treasures of our past.

While I am saddened to see Chairman Ivey's tenure at the NEA come to an end, I am confident that he will continue to be a strong advocate for the arts community.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chairman Ivey for his commitment to the arts and for his leadership to this nation.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST SIKHS EXPOSED—ATTACKS MUST STOP

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I spoke previously about the violence against